

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.	:	10/058,036	Confirmation No. :	2683
First Named Inventor	:	Toshihiro TAKAGI		
Filed	:	January 29, 2002		
TC/A.U.	:	2623		
Examiner	:	J. Shepard		
Docket No.	:	010482.50896US		
Customer No.	:	23911		
Title	:	Channel Selection Device for Digital/analog Broadcasting Receiver		

AFTER FINAL REPLY

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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated August 30, 2007, reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-10 remain pending.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,472 to Shintani and U.S. Patent No. 6,766,526 to Ellis ("Ellis"). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Shintani and Ellis does not render claim 1 obvious because the combination does not disclose or suggest a control unit that performs the first selecting procedure recited in this claim. The first selecting procedure is performed when receiving an instruction by the predetermined operation key *that is not preceded by the numerical-value input keys*. This selecting procedure

involves fixing the main channel *currently being received*, and then fixing the sub-channel of the number of the numerical value inputted by the numerical-value input keys.

Shintani discloses a technique in which a channel can be selected by entering a major channel number, a delimiter and a minor channel number.¹ In this technique the delimiter *is preceded* by a numerical-value, namely the major channel number.

Recognizing that Shintani does not disclose or suggest a control unit that performs the first selecting procedure recited in Applicant's claim 1, the Office Action cites Ellis. Ellis discloses a channel selection technique in which as each digit of a channel selection is entered, information associated with the entered channel is displayed.²

The Office Action relies on Figure 6C, and the associated description in column 7, lines 3-13, and Figure 11, and the associated description in column 9, lines 32-49 as disclosing the first procedure recited in Applicant's claim 1. As illustrated in Figure 6C, reproduced below, after the "2" key is selected, then screen 125 is displayed; when the "5" is selected next, then screen 130 is displayed; and when the "2" key is again selected, then screen 135c.

¹ Figure 2A.

² Col. 1, lines 7-12.

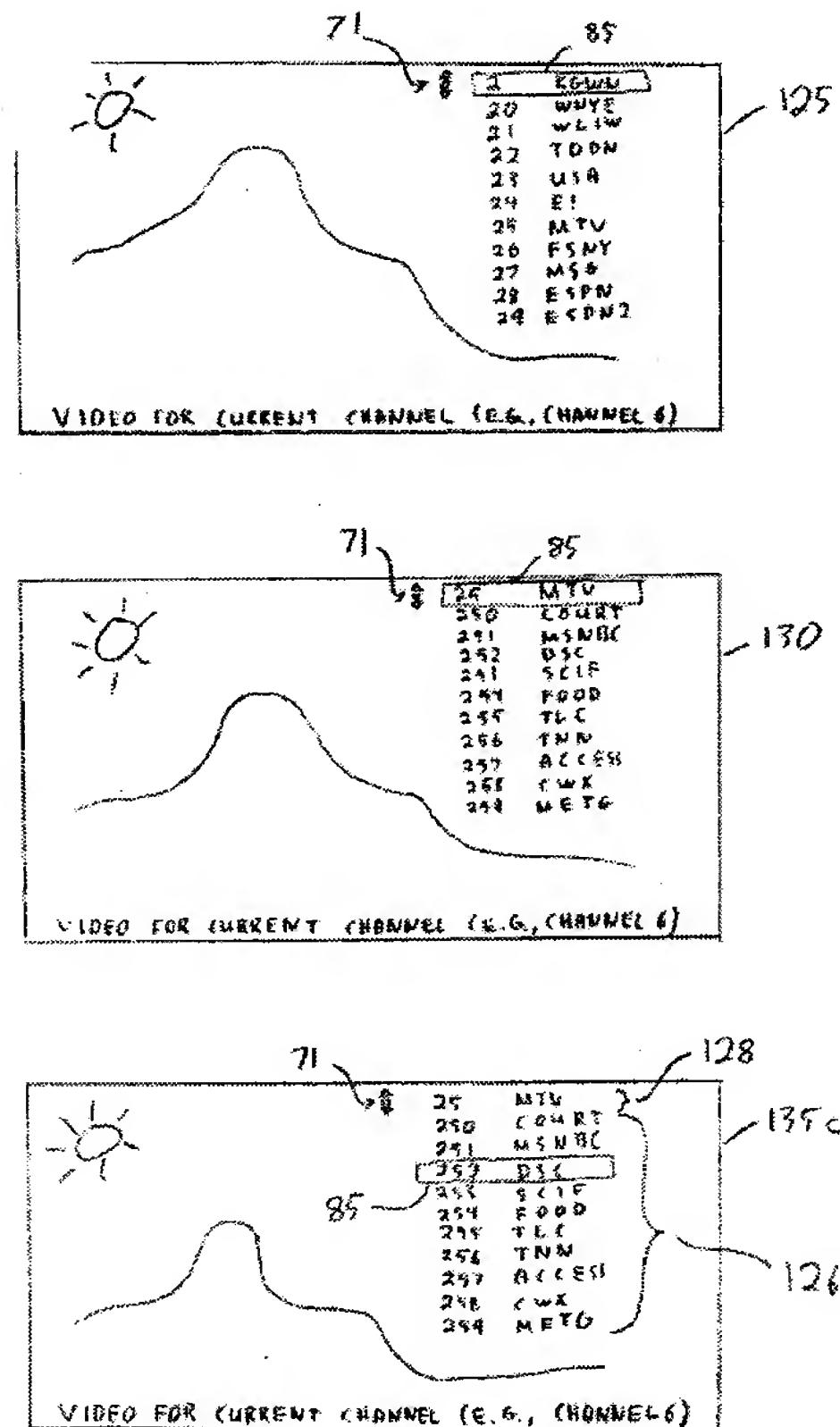


FIG. 6C

The technique of Figure 6 is initiated *in response to a numerical key input*, and accordingly, is not performed “when receiving an instruction by the predetermined operation key *that is not preceded by the numerical-value input key*.³

Furthermore, as clearly illustrated in Figure 6C, the current channel during this video selection process is channel 6, whereas none of the channels available for selection involve channel 6 as a main channel. Accordingly, the

³ *Emphasis added.*

technique illustrated in Figure 6C does not *fix the main channel being currently received* as is performed in the first procedure recited in Applicant's claim 1.

The technique of Figure 11, reproduced below, involves displaying related component channels *in response to receipt of a numerical value input*. Specifically, as clearly illustrated in Figure 11, when the user presses the "9" key, a related channel list 192 is displayed. Accordingly, in contrast to the first procedure recited in Applicant's claim 1 which is performed "when receiving an instruction by the predetermined operation key *that is not preceded* by the numerical-value input key"⁴, the technique illustrated in Figure 11 is performed *in response to receipt of a numerical value input*.

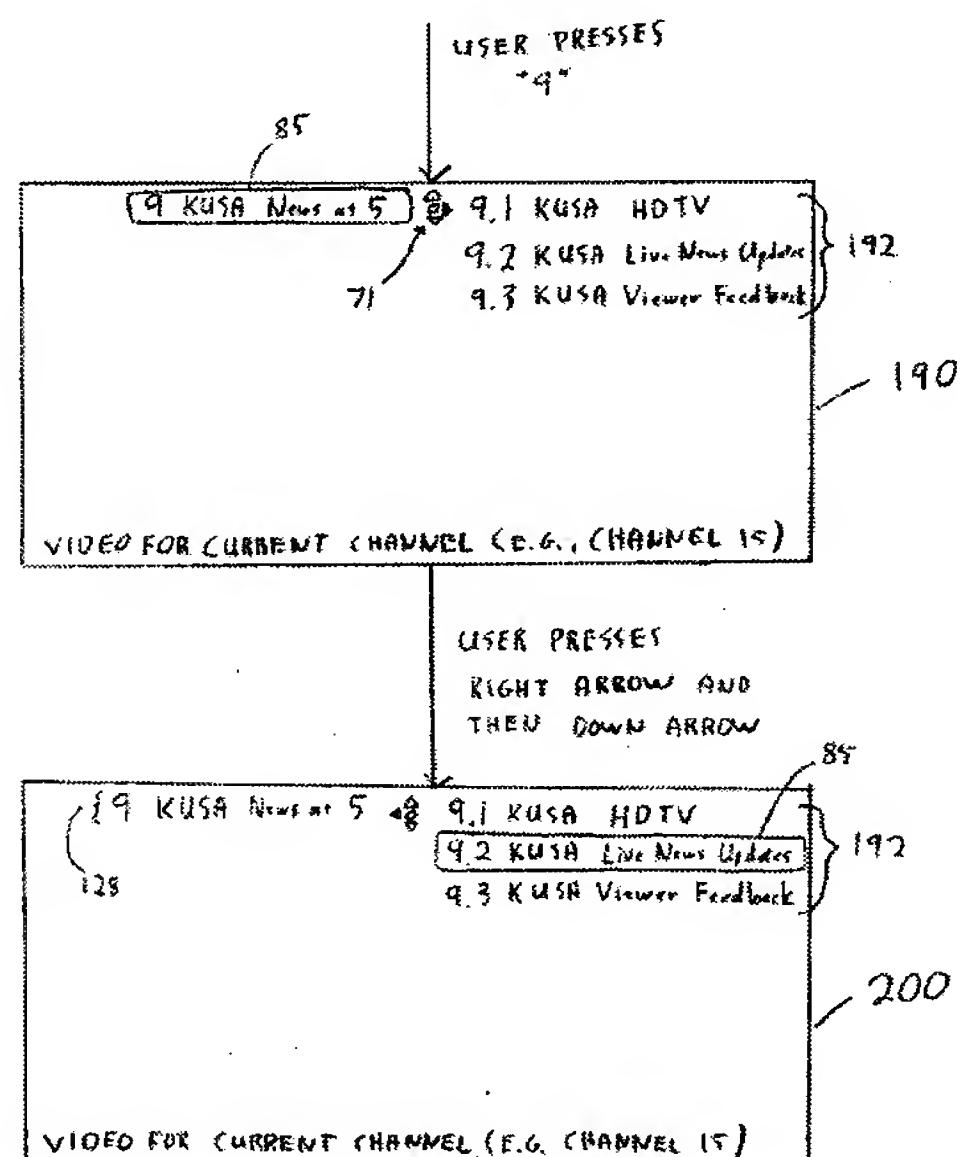


FIG. 11

⁴ *Emphasis added.*

Furthermore, the technique of Figure 11 involves selecting channel 9 or related channels 9.1, 9.2, or 9.3, when the current channel is 15. In contrast to Ellis' disclosure of selecting a channel that is *different* from that currently being displayed, the first procedure of Applicant's claim 1 fixes the main channel *currently being received*.

Because both techniques of Ellis cited by the Office Action are initiated in response to the selection of a numerical value input, neither of the cited techniques are performed "when receiving an instruction by the predetermined operation key *that is not preceded* by the numerical-value input key."⁵ Furthermore, because both of the techniques disclosed by Ellis are performed to select a channel that is *different* from the currently displayed channel, neither of these techniques fixes the main channel *currently being received*.

Because Shintani and Ellis each do not disclose or suggest a control unit that performs the first selecting procedure recited in Applicant's claim 1, the combination of Shintani and Ellis cannot render this claim obvious. Claims 4 and 5 are patentably distinguishable over the combination at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claim 8 recites a method with similar elements to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, and is patentably distinguishable over the combination of

⁵ *Emphasis added.*

Serial No. 10/058,036
Amendment Dated: November 28, 2007
Reply to Office Action: August 30, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 010482.50896US

Shintani and Ellis for similar reasons. Claims 9 and 10 are patentably distinguishable over the combination at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 8.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 010482.50896US).

Respectfully submitted,

November 28, 2007



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